SECOND ANTIVERSARY

OF THE U. S. OHRISTIAN COMMISSION. 6.10

Immense Meeting in the American Academy of Music, Philadelphia. 1997 - 1989 A. A. A. <u>1999 A.</u> A. Arto F. A. -

NOBLE TESTIMONY FROM DISTIN-GUISHED GENERALS AND OTHERS.

[Specially reported for our columns.]

There have been few, if any, meetings of a religious character claiming such a large, share of public interest and attention as the second anniversary of the U.S. Christian Commission, held in the beautiful and commodious Academy of Music, in this city, on the evening of the 28th of January. From the time the first intimation was given to the public that such a meeting was to be held, up to the very hour that it took place, the demand for tickets of admission was entirely unprecedented. We know associations and institutions which have grown old holding anniversaries, and they have often found it difficult to get a sufficient number of persons interested to fill an ordinary sized hall. The great difficulty experienced. by the members of the Christian Commission was the impossibility of getting a building of such enormous capacity as would accommodate all who wished to be present. The Academy of Music has the largest auditorium of any building in this city, or, we believe, in the country. When filled as it was on Thursday evening it can accommodate between four and five thousand persons, and yet: thousands, eager to attend, were unable to gain admission. Large delegations, composed of gentlemen eminent in the walks of religion and business, and foremost in the leading enterprises of the church, were present from Boston, New York, Pittsburght Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Rochester, Buffalo, and other places. Such an audience never before assembled within the walls of the Academy since its dedication. When the full glare of the numerous gas jets in the magnificent chandelier lit up the vast audience chamber, the scene presented was of the most brilliant and interesting character. Every seat in the house was occupied, and standing room was difficult of obtaining, even in the more remote parts of the house. The house itself was unusually attractive. Around the front of the balcony and family circle were draped continuous folds of the tricolor, and looped in graceful festoonings, and large platform, while State and National standards were arranged around the sides of the proscenium boxes, the fronts of which were | Stars and Stripes of out beloved country, (apcovered with the stars and stripes. It was a grand pageant, exhibiting in every variety the beautiful colors that represent our nationality, struggle for national unity, and to ask that the Red, White, and Blue. The platform was occupied by a numerous delegation of the elergy of the city, among them being some of the most prominent divines in the community, Prayer by Rev. Geo. W. Musgrave, D. D. together with a number of our most eminent citizens. The Germania Orchestra, one of the finest in the country, was present and enlivened the occasion with some excellent selections of We thank Thee that Thou has permitted Thy music.

Some idea of the interesting character of Some idea of the interesting character of the meeting may be obtained when it is stated that the vast assembly sat from seven till, half past eleven o'clock; and even at that late hour mission. We bless Thee for all the philanthropy past eleven o'clock, and even at that late hour | mission. We bless Thee for all the philanthropy Mountain, stood before the immense audience, with his armless coat sleeve pinned to his side, the Gospel and Cross of Jesus Christ. When he arose to speak, the scene presented defied description. The whole assembly arose to their feet. Hats and handkerchiefs were waved, amid the most unbounded enthusiasm. Seldom have we seen a more hearty ovation than was tendered this gallant soldier of the Union and of the Cross of Christ. A lady who was present on the occasion, sent, next day, to George, H. Stuart, Chairman of the Commission, a hundred dollars, with an interesting letter, from which we make a single extract :---"I esteem it a privilege to have attended the meeting, to listen to those interesting addresses, and to have witnessed the enthusiasm of feeling manifested; but above every thing else, to have been permitted to hear the testimony of such a man as General Howard, in favor of, our holy religion. To me that was one of the greatest sermons I have ever heard. If we have many such men as he in the army, we may surely look for the favor and blessing of God. With him, I say, 'God bless the Christian Commission,' which, while, it does not neglect the bodies of our brave soldiers, cares especially for their souls." As might be expected, the meeting was full of true patriotism. Every allusion to our common nationality, the President of the United States, the old flag, and the brave men who defend it on land and sea, called forth hearty tokens of approval.

I had hoped to have been relieved from occupying the chair this evening. The Committee of Arrangements tendered that position to his Excellency, Governor Curtin; and we had hoped that his official duties would have permitted him to comply with our invitation. The fol-

> lowing letter, however, will give the reasons for his absence.

GOVERNOR CURTIN'S LETTER.

Jan. 23d, 1864.—GEORGE H. STUART, Esq., Chairman, &c. Dear Sir:—Your very kind letters of the 12th and 21st instants, inviting me to preside at the anniversary meeting of the United States Christian Commission, to be held at the Academy of Music, in Philadelphia, on Thursday evening, January 28th, have been received and answered briefly by telegraph. I find, upon consideration, that my public duties during the ensuing week will be such as to prevent my attendance at your mceting.

Believe me when I say that I feel highly honored by the preference shown by your Commission, and that I regret deeply that it is out of my power to lend my voice on the interesting occasion referred to. I have long known your wide spread usefulness and benevolence, and have looked on with pride and pleasure when your agents, were ministering to the comforts and welfare of the defenders of the Constitution.

I felt it my duty after each of the sanguinary conflicts of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, to visit the Army of the Potomac and look after the comfort of our men, and while I confess that my heart sank within me at the contemplaion of scenes so terrific and so far beyond all description, it was gladdened by witnessing the calm courage with which wounds and disease were borne by our soldiery, and the unceasing efforts of the benevolent and good in their ministrations for the partial alleviation of the distressed. Among the foremost in discharge of these sacred and self-sacrificing duties I saw the Christian Commission. So long as this war lasts may you continue

your career of usefulness and good, sustained by the means of the affluent, and the prayers and blessings of those to whom you have proved benefactors.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient ervant. A. G. CURTIN. servant,

Opening Remarks of the Chairman.

After reading the above letter, Mr. Stuart said:

My friends, I decline occupying your valuable time by any remarks of my own. I may observe, however, that this interesting occasion: is one which calls for your profound gratitude to God, for we are constrained to believe that the hand of Providence has marked this organization from the day that it had its birth down to the present moment. I therefore ask you to unite with the Rev. Dr. Musgrave. of this city, in giving thanks to God for the heavy flags formed the back ground of the means by which He has enabled you, during the past year, to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the noble men who are defending the plause) and also to invoke Heaven's blessing upon our nation, during the present desperate those noble defenders of our country may be sustained and upheld on every field of battle!

Oh, great God, the Father of light, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we earnestly implore Thy gracious presence among us. servants to assemble on this, the second anniversary of the Christian Commission, under cir-

success. Bless all the people of our land that | reading of the Abstract of the Annual Report. | to some extent and in some particulars by At the close of the singing, Mr. Stuart said: they may be patient, that they may be faithful to | We shall dispense with this, as the audience suffer, if needs be, death itselt in the support of a righteous cause. And we pray Thee to give them strength and courage in the hour of conflict; and grant them decisive victory. The Lord bless the sick and the wounded connected with our army and navy. And do Thou minister to their wants; comfort them in their distress, spare their lives if consistent with Thy will. But if appointed to die, prepare them for EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, Pa., that solemn event and take them to Thyself in heaven. Now, Lord, we ask Thy blessing upon those who shall address this large assembly. Do Thou give them wisdom that their words, their thoughts, their sentiments may be ap-

> proved of God and be made useful ta all who hear them. Do Thou bless the people here present. Make us all yet more and more patriotic. Help us to seek the glory of God, the welfare of our country and the happiness of our race Which we ask, with the pardon of our sins; wholly in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer: Amen.

Reading the Scriptures by Rev. Benjamin Watson, D. D.

.The Rev. Dr. Watson, of this city, was then introduced, and proceeded to read the XXV chapter of the gospel, as recorded by Matthew, from the 31st verse to the end of the chapter.

MR. STUART-We have received a number of letters which will be published in the report of the proceedings of this anniversary. . I will not take up the time of the meeting further than simply to refer to one or two of them. The letter I hold in my hand is from the Secretary of State, Hon. William H. Seward.

SECRETARY SEWARD'S LETTER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. WASHINGTON. January 23d, 1864/-To GEORGE H. STUART. Chairman United States Christian Commission, No. 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.--My Dear Sir:—I rejoice more than I can express in the manifestations which appear in so many quarters, that the social and refigious forces of the country are being diverted from the unprofitable and hurtful controversies with which this great national trial of ours opened, to an earnest, popular, harmonious and united co-operation with the President, the Congress, the Army and the Navy, the loyal States, the loyal Governors, the loyal Courts, the loyal Ministers, the loyal Consuls, the loyal Doctors, the loyal Clergy, the loyal Teachers, and the loyal Press in maintaining this Union in its broadest proportions, and upon its impregnable material and moral of our forces having no chaplains. foundations, against all assaults at home or from abroad. It is the only true way now to preserve either national or individual prospe-rity, or civil or religious freedom.

mourners in the cause, is a suggestion equally of patriotism and of Christianity. If it were possible, therefore, I would be with the Dhristian Commission, not only in its proposed demonstration here, but also in its projected celebration in Philadelphia; I would be with it, and with the Sanitary Commission; with the Freedmen's Association, and with all the other noble charities which are springing up, among us, always, and wherever they might be In this great struggle I know no loyal found and humane association with which I do not delight to fraternize with my whole soul, heart and mind.

lelight to fraternize with my dear sir, nd mind. • I am, dear sir, •Very respectfully, your obedient servant, WINLIAM H. SEWARD. The following letter was received from the

Hon. S. P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury.

SECRETARY CHASE'S LETTER.

will find it upon the third page of the programme, and can all read it for themselves.

Abstract of the Annual Report for 1863.

Cash received at the Central Office and delegates from the several Christian Associa Branch during the year, \$358,239,29; value of Stores donated, 335,829,07; value of Scriptures contributed by American Bible Sotions of the country, which convention, with prayer and conference, formed the Christian Commission for the Army and Navy, the ciety, 45,071,50; value of Scriptures contri-buted by British and Foreign Bible Society, second anniversary of which we are now celebrating. 1,677, 70; value of Railroad facilities contri-buted, 44,210,00; value of Telegraph facilities contributed, 9,390,00; value of Delegates serorganized, extensive plan for the supply of these great needs. The greatness of the vices, 72,420,00-Total,\$916,837,65. necessity may be partly inferred from the

Cash expended in purchase of Stores, Publications, expenses of Delegates, &c., \$265,-211,28; balance on hand at Central Office, 1st January, 1864, 43,547, 41; balance on hand at Branch office. 1st January, 1864; 49,480,-60; Christian Ministers and Laymen commis-Camps, Hospitals, and Ships during the year, 1,207; copies of Scriptures distributed, 465,-715; Hymn and Psalm Books distributed, 465,-371,859; Knapsack Books distributed; 1,254, 591; Library Books distributed; 39,718; Ma gazines and Pamphlets distributed, 120,492; Religious Newspapers distributed, 2,931,469; pages of Tracts distributed, 11,976,722; Si-lent Comforters, &c., distributed, 3,285. The increasing work of the Commission is

drawing heavily upon the Treasury from day to day. The balance on hand is small compared with the prospective demands of the winter and spring.

NECESSITIES MET.

1. The necessity for a living link by living

messengers going and returning between the home and the field. their condition. Thus the Christian Commission has sent more than 1,200 of these delegates 2. That for full-handed, full-hearted deleamong our soldiers with instructions to assist gates from home to seek the despondent, the sick, the worn, the wounded, wherever they the surgeons in binding up their wounds, to nurse them in the hospitals, to administer in they might be found, and give them the perconnection with their bodily needs the consosonal cheer, sympathy, and relief they require. lations of the gospel, to mark the place of 3. That for stores to fill the hands of these delegates with the means of immediate per-sonal rehef, by counsel and consent of surgeons, at home the last sad mementoes of the dying. They have therefore almost uniformly been if every case of want and suffering they can welcomed and received as ministers of healing find and comfort, as messengers of hope and mercy.

4. That for a special corps of minute men to send to the field in time of battle. with ample battle-field stores to relieve the weary, aid the surgeons in saving the wounded, give comfort and counsel to the dying, and Chris-tian burial to the dead, mark their graves, and transmit tenderly the sad tokens of love and delegates to preach the gospel of Christ, to fur-nish the Holy Scriptures, and the reading mat-ter to which I' have referred. They have inintelligence of death to the bereaved at home. 5. That for securing and sending reading hold social meetings for prayer and religious conversation, and in every practical way promatter, constant, various, and fresh from the

press of the various denominations, to alleviate the famine for something to read incident to military life and the vicissitudes of war. 6. That for ministerial laborers to supply

the lack of chaplain service in the large part

7. That of aid and cheer to chaplains in the rom abroad. It is the only true way now to preserve either national or individual prospe-ity, or civil or religious freedom. Belief to the sufferers and consolation to the nourners in the cause, is a suggestion equally for the sufferers and consolation to the services by supplying them on the ground with the Scriptures, books, papers, and tracts, for use and distribution, by indispensable assis-tance in erecting chapters and by the personal services as required, of ministerial and lay delegates in benefitting their men.

8. That of filling the hands and strengthen ing the hearts of good men in the service, surgeons, officers and privates, in their efforts to do good to those around them.

9. That of an agency for a thorough, continuous, systematic distribution of the Scrip-tures furnished by the American Bible Society, and reading matter from all sources beyond those portions of our National forces which may be supplied through chaplains and others in the service.

Stir Postick PRINCIPLES OF ACTION 1. Catholicity. T 137.22 11. Nationality. The church of Christ of various names united

in behalf of the men of every State gone to the war: III. Voluntariness.

The enlisting and marshalling of the immense armies of our country in so short a time has been a sublime event that will emblazon one of the most wonderful pages of human history. And the movement of these immense armies, because of the vastness of the interests in peril, and the millions of the present and the coming generations, whose welfare was involved, has had an importance and solemnity which cannot be exceeded except it be by the interests of eternity and the transactions of the Deity. And yet I question whether, in the whole history of the war, there has been an hour of greater interest than will be attached to that hour when these armies shall be disbanded, when these men shall return home. The introduction of such a number of persons into new society, into the diffrrent homes and neighborhoods of the country, cannot but be pregnant with great effects, and it becomes a question of great interest, what shall be that effect? These men will not be obscure per-sons. Every one of them has a history, and a name, and a story; and these returning soldiers are to have the ear of the boyhood of the nation the next thirty years. What shall be the character of their communications? Shall they be corrupted, or shall they inspire this boyhood with noble patriotism and with love to God? I answer that the influences which they shall exert will be strikingly in accordance with their character; and their character when they return home will be very much in harmony with the influences that have been thrown around them while they were in the army. This fact makes the sending of these men with the influence of Christian homes, the influence of good reading, the influence of home associations, the influence of Christian circles and of religious services, a matter of the intensest moment. I say, therefore, that the work of this Association is a work of patriotism as well as a work of philanthropy and of piety-the three highest attributes that ever ennobled a human enterprise. This is not only a work of usefulness and goodness. It is also a great work. Its vast. ness may be inferred from the multitudes that compose the army and the navy, from the influences under which they are placed, and the interests which gather around the circles and families from which these men have come. And I will here add that the number of those for whom we care and to whom we minister is augmented by our attentions and services rendered to those Confederates who are brought within the range of the influence and aim of these labors. The greatness of the work may also be inferred from what has been contributed from the loyal land in money, and in stores, and in other valuable gifts, of which the Christian country has made the Christian who are trusted least or trusted most? It is one Commission the almoners to our army and navy of nearly a milli on of dollars' worth I have but one thought more. I conclude by saying that these men to whom we propose to minister are worthy of our ministry. (Applause.) They are soldiers fighting for our nationality. They are soldiers fighting the battle of this world. (Applause.) They are well worthy of our loving and of our kindest offices: My task is done. I have given you but a bird's eye view of the Christian Commission, and I now leave to the distinguished orasidious yet oftentimes equal dangers of the tors of the evening to unfold the work, and camp. I believe that our government has ap. pray that the blessing of Almighty God may preclated these necessities of our soldiers, and rest upon this congregation, and upon the by a handsome check, which was sent to our product these necessaties of our soldiers, and rest upon this congregation, and upon the who are longing for pence and prosperity will that it could to relieve them, by great interests of the Christian Commission in upon the who are longing for pence and prosperity will that it could to relieve them, by great interests of the Christian Commission in upon the book of brought together the ancient its work of blessing to the army and navy of people from their sevently years of captivity in a strange land, where they hung their harps upon

When Bishop Janes had concluded, the andience united in singing the following hymn :

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does his successive journeys run: His kingdom spread from shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

generous individual effort and by benevolent

associations. Still, the intelligent, watchful

Christian young men of the country saw that

these necessities were but partially relieved, and that some of them were not even contem.

plated by the action to which we have referred.

They consequently called a convention of

Up to that period there had been no general.

extent of the work of the Commission during

the past year, in their attempts to supply it. In this work they have circulated 465,715

circulated over a million and a half of religious

books, some of them small, to be sure, but all of

them suited to the circumstances of the men

for whom they were designed. They have also

distributed three millions of magazines and

religious papers, and some twelve million pages of tracts; Now L submit to the

imagination of this congregation the estimate of the greatness of the benefit which this amount of useful reading matter has been to

the army and navy of the country For I am sure that my words cannot state these benefits.

It has been found a more difficult work to

meet the social wants of the army," We cannot

take to these husbands, fathers and brothers

their homes: And we have no substitutes for

their homes to give them. No. The best

which it has been possible for us to do was to

send faithful messengers to them, inquire into

their wants, and welfare, and report home

The Christian Commission has, however, al

ways felt that the moral and religious interests

of the army and navy were the more important

concerns. They have therefore sent out their

structed their delegates to co-operate with the

chaplains, and as they have opportunity to

mote the religious interests of those to whom

they were sent. And I am happy to say, to my

certain knowledge, that many men who went

into the army wicked men, as wicked as evil agencies could make them, have been regene-

rated by the grace of God, and have returned

to their homes to adorn the doctrine of our

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

copies of the Holy Scriptures; they have

For him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown his head; His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise With every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns; The prisoner leaps to loose his chains; The weary finds eternal rest, And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring Peculiar honors to our King; Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud Amen.

MR. STUART-I desire to introduce as the representative of that great national catholic institution, the American Bible Society, the Rev. Dr. Taylor:

Address of Rev. W. J. R. Taylor, D. D.

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE CHRIS-TIAN COMMISSION :--- Your Commission has the sanction of the heads of Departments, of Generals in the Army, and of the President of the United States. But, sir, you hold your title at a nobler Hand. Your Commission bears the signature of the Prince of the Kingdoms of Earth. In that worthy Name the Commission has gone forth to prosecute its Christ-like labors of mercy and love. But, sir, what has religion to do amid the conflict of battle? What has Christianity to do in all this b) bittle? What has Christianity to do in all this horrid strife? One of the representatives of the school of non-combatants said to me recently, "Does thee think that God has anything to do with this war?", "Most certainly I do!" "I do not," was the quick reply, "God is a Rock, and he is not moved by the passions and crimes of men. He leaves them in their wickedness to reap the awful results of their follies." God is indeed our Rock. But it is the glory of

our common faith that he is the Rock of Ages in whose cleft even the rebels may find a refuge while we see his glory passing by. It is the glory of our faith that we have not a High Priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities, but was tempted in all points like as we are, yet their burial, and to return to surviving friends | without sin. Why, sir, the sympathy of Jesus is the key to the work of your Commission. It is because Christ sits upon the throne that his church moves in her glorious pathway of light and love. And this Christian Commission repre-sents the Church of Christin her most benevolent efforts. Why, Mr. President, when you went up upon this Christian errand to our noble soldiers, you soon found that you could not do the work of Christ without having the Word of Christ to bear in your hands to those to whom you ministered in their sufferings. It was much every way in re-sponsibility to that great Institution which God in his providence has raised up and sustained by the beneficence of his church forhalf a century, were committed so largely the oracles of God. And when you came to it, it was not unmindful of its responsibility and its privilege; for I here give testimony that the large grants made to the Christian Commission, have been most cheerfully made by the Managers of the American Bible Society; and distribution has been effected of more than five hundred thousand copies,--and by the grace of God, we will give more than five hundred thousand copies more to such a cause !

(Applause.) We have been satisfied with your distribution. From these statements it will be seen that ia our work we do not neglect the physical neces-We have known how your agents and delegates sities of the men. On the contrary, we have have worked. We have known how you have given to them the deepest, and tenderest taken these Books in mass and have carried them by the single' volume to those who needed them. sympathy; and we have given to sufferers the most direct, effectual, and appropriate minis tries which they have received. But the dele The reports which have been made by your delegates have often times written new chapters in the history of this precious word of God. What gates remember that the men are immortal. ac countable, that they are destined to a life behas the Bible to do with this war, sir? The disyond this, and they therefore seek to promote tinguished gentleman who administers the affairs their Christian character, their well being here and hereafter, both now and forever. of the Department of State, and whose letter of recommendation and regard has been read here The Christian Commission illustrates as happily as ever can be illustrated, the maxim that phy as ever can be mustrated, the maximum charity is twice blessed, both in him who gives and in them who receive. The messages which have been sent by every delegate from the sol-diers in the army to their friends at home, often the statement of the fact that they died as United States would have had no existence, and that if there could be in every decade a copy of the Holy Scripture placed in every family of the Union, our institutions would be preserved inde-finitely." Alas! sir, alas! that this has not been thoroughly accomplished. We know that the basis of every human law is the Law of God as we find with joy and thanksgiving by many hearts, and in many homes throughout this land. it written in his inspired word. But it may not be so well known by the mass of this audience, that according to the testimony of the most eminent expounders of the system of law, the whole system owes its origin clearly and purely to Christianity. One of our most distin-guished public characters, whose eloquence has rung through this stately hall as he eulogized our Washington, said, so far as I recollect, in these very words: "That the religious systems of Greece and Rome, and originally or all nations of antiquity, formed the great obstacle to the establishment of any great principle of international law; but that it grew by necessity out of the spiritual religion of the New Testament." And he adduces this striking testimony: "That the whole development of the public law of the world was but the simple application and exponent of the principle announced by the Saviour in his sermon on the Mount-"Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them.'" Now, sir, I take it that if that simple law had been applied to our foreign relations during the progress of this war, we never should have had the "Alabama" sent afloat in the place of the "George Griswold," nor would the ocean now be swarming with pirates. This is not all. What do we hear of the mighty workings of this Book of God among our defenders upon the sea and upon the land 2... It is no longer a question whether the men in the army will read the Bible. We know that they crave it, and with outstretched hands. It is no longer a question whether they abuse the Word of God. We know that the instances of abuse are scarcely appreciable in comparison with the effects of its distribution. It is no longer a guession whether Christian men in the army love the Word of God as they did at home. Sir, multitudes of them love it more than they ever did before. But sometimes a question arises as to the waste, the consumption of volumes sent out. It is even so. But supposing that it were twice as great as it is, or even three times were twice as great as it is, or even three times as great, it were worth all that it costs, sir, if we only put the Testament, or Book of Psalms, or the Gospel by John, in the hands of some poor dying man who is languishing upon the battle-field. But I would have this Christian audience understand that these men will cling to their Testaments and Bibles when they throw away their knapsacks, and even their arms. They carry the Word of God with them in their retreat! (Applause. I might appeal with confidence to these leaders of our armies, who are here to-night, for their testimony in regard to the influence of the Word of God upon their soldiers. Tell me, sir, (addressing Gen. Howard,) were the men whom you led to ictory at Gettysburg, or in the valley of the Lookout at Chattanooga, less brave, less heroio, because the carried religion with them into the battle, and this Book of the wars of the Lord? Tell me, were those who fought Hooker's battle above the clouds less heroic because they were animated by the spirit of that Book, which taught them to play the man for our people and for the cities of our God ? Are the Christian men in the army-the men who love the Word of God, those of the significant facts in regard to this Bible distribution, that our soldiers are beginning to crave the whole Word of God-they want not merely to read the Testament, but they are beginning to long for the whole Old Bible. And, sir, so far as the distribution can be discriminate. and the means of the Society will allow, I believe that the day is not far distant when the distribution of the whole Bible will be made very largely to those who would appreciate it. Sir, the very spirit of an immortal heroism breathes in that Old Testament. They who are engaged in the effort to put down this gigantic rebellion will not furget Absalom and Ahithophel, Abijah, and the revolt of the ten tribes. "And they

At 7; o'clock, George H. Stuart, Esq., President of the Christian Commission, came forward and said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :- We shall commence the exercises of the second anniversary of the United States Christian Commission for the Army and Navy, by calling upon Mr. John Bower to lead the audience in singing God's praise in the first hymn on the programme.

The immense assembly then arose and, assisted by the Germania Orchestra, united in singing, to the tune of "Old Hundred." the following hymn:

Lord, while for all mankind we pray, Of every clime and coast, On hear us for our native land,— The land we love the most.

Oh guard our shores from every foe; With peace our borders bless-our sites with prosperity. Our fields with plenteousness.

Unite us in the sacred love Of knowledge, truth and thee, And let our hills and valleys chant The songs of liberty.

Lord of the nations, thus to thee Our country we commend? Be they her refuge and her trust-Her everlasing trians.

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the interest did not seem diminished. The and Christian love which have characterized the addresses, as our readers will learn from our labors of Thy servants; and we rejoice and give very full report, were of the most thrilling Thee thanks for the immeasurable good that character. Major-General Howard, fresh from has been accomplished by its instrumentality, the heroic fields of 'Chattanooga and Lookout | for the thousands whose physical sufferings and wants have been relieved and supplied, and especially for the hundreds who have been hope and bore a glorious testimony to the power of fully converted to God and made the heirs of eternal life. We invoke Thy continued favors and blessings upon this institution. Wilt Thou give wisdom and grace to its President, to all its officers and managers, to all its representatives! And do Thou crown with Thy blessing all their efforts to do good.

And we praise Thee for the liberality which has sustained this institution thus far. We invoke the blessing of God upon this people and bray that they may feel the truth of the divine declaration, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And we pray that God would em-

ploy this association still more and more; that its sphere of usefulness may be extended and that it may not only relieve the temporal wants of men but that it may be especially institumental in spreading the knowledge of the Truth as it is in Jesus and in leading multitudes to the cross of Christ. We pray for thy blessing on our beloved country. We thank God that we are still a nation, that our government has been providentially preserved. And we rejoice, this night, that under its protection we can meet in safety and engage in these patriotic efforts.

Bless our respected and beloved Chief Magistrate, the President of the United States. Do Thou give him wisdom and strength that he may faithfully and successfully discharge all his official duties. Do Thou bless his admintration and make it a blessing to this great country. We pray Thee to preside over the deliberations of our National Congress. Do Thou guide them. Aid them in the adoption of wise laws and necessary measures. Rebuke all factious opposition to the government and make all our public servants truly patriotic. And we praise God for the loyalty of the masses of the people and beseech Thee to give us all faith and fortifude and courage and perseverance. Make the people willing to endure all things, to submit to every necessary sacrifice, to put forth all necessary efforts to sustain the government. to preserve our country undivided, to restore peace, harmony and prosperity to our whole land. O Lord, bring this civil war to a speedy close by subduing the rebels in arms, by blinging them to see the folly, the wickedness, the desperation of their rebellion. Do Thou quicken their consciences that they may realize that their treason is a crime against their country not only, but a crime against the Almighty himself, that they are resisting his servants, his di-

vinely established ordinance. And do Thou bless our army and our navy. Give their commanders skill and courage and

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you on the 28th instant, if practicable. I fear, quired from the American Bible Society, and however, that imperative duties here will pre- a large amount of publications, and stores from dtainer of Yours most truly, S. P. CHASE. ventit

MR. STUART-We had expected to have on the platform this evening, that distinguished son of Pennsylvania, General Meade, (applause) Within the past hour, we impressed General Howard, one of his gallant Corps commanders, into our service. General Meade deeply regrets his inability to be present, and he has sent a note. written by his son, which, being short, I will read you, the set of a loss the

GENERAL MEADE'S LETTER.

No. 2037 PINE STREET, Jan. 26th, 1864.-GEO. H. STUART, Chairman U. S. C. C .:-Dear Sir: — My father requests me to acknow-ledge the receipt of your invitation to be pre-sent at the Second Appiversary of the Christian Commission, next Thursday evening The General, as you are probably aware, has been very sick, and delayed answering your note in the hope that he might be sufficiently ecovered to be present at the anniversary He was anxious to show, by his presence, the interest he felt in the good work of the Commission. He now desires me to state that it will be impossible for him to be pre-sent. He is very much better, but will be confined to the house for several days yet.

Very truly yours, J. SERGEANE MEADE MESTUART.-Let us pray to God that his life may be long spared to the country !

We had hoped to have the pleasnre of having ipon the platform, as one of the speakers this vening, that distinguished and gallant son of the navy. Admiral Dupont. He sends us a letter, which, being also short, I ask the liberty of reading: and al

ADMIRAL DUPONT'S LETTER.

LOUVIERS, NEAR WILMINGTON, DEL. Jan. 9. 1864 ---- My Dear Sir :-- I have the pleasure to ack nowledge your communication of the 6th inst., informing me that I had been recently selected by the Executive Committee of the United States Christian Commission to represent the navy at the approaching anniversary of their organization.-

I have followed with deep interest the work of the Christian Commission during this Re-bellion-a work worthy of the Chairman and of its other active members, and I hope it will not be considered as any diminution of this interest on my part that I am compelled to decline the gratifying invitation extended to me. Will you do me the favor to present my thanks to the Executive Committee, with my heartfelt wishes for the success of their most laudable endeavors which have already done so much good, and which I shall deem it a privilege to promote.

Believe me, dear sir, yours, most truly, S. F. DUPONT. Geo.-H. Stuart, Esq., Chairman Christian Commission, Philadelphia.

MR. STUART.-The letter was accompanied by a handsome check, which was sent to our Treasurer. (Applause.)

the religious press and the people. The reg-ulated freedom of 20,000 miles of railway and 20,000 miles of telegraph, and the services of more than 1500 ministers and laymen as delegates all without pay, freely received, freely bestowed. TV. Combination of benefits for body and

soul.

V. Reliance upon men, Christian ministers and laymen, mainly as the agency for giving the benefits needed to the men in the field. VI: Personal distribution with personal ministrations. Stores given. Never if the soldier, is under the surgeon's care without his counsel and consent, but always if possible directly by the delegate to the soldier. And always adding such personal service and reli-gious counsel to the value of the gift as the VIIs Co-operation with chaplains, surgeons

officers and all good men, by supplying and aiding them to benefit those around them.

VIII. Respect for authorities, National, military and medical. Strengthening confi-dence in the Government, and faith in God for the suppression of the rebellion. And in-structing all delegates to report to and counel with those in authority, wherever they go, and observe every regulation established, and never to repeat or report anything affecting public or personal interests without consent of hose concerned or in command.

MR. STUART .--- I have the pleasure of in trolucing Bishop E. S. Janes, D. D., of New York. one of the founders of the U.S. Christian Commission, and one from whom the Commission has derived much valuable counsel and assistance.

> Bishop Janes's Statement. e.4 -

Among the necessities of mankind, pressed upon at all times and under all circumstances, the want of daily bread, the want of intellectual food, the want of social enjoyment, the want of a divine religion are felt to be necessities of every day and every place. Certain circumstances of need, and peculiar emergencies, demand to be met with peculiar and special agencies. Sickness requires medicine and efficient nursing. Affliction, or age, or peril, or death, enhances the value of Christian ministrations, and makes our Lord and Savious Jesus Christ peculiarly

precions. Now all of these classes of necessities exist urgently and extensively in the army and navy of the United States. As a class, the men who compose our army and navy are intelligent. They are men who have been accustomed to have their newspayers, their books, and to converse with intelligent minds, and those of intellectual habits. Many of these men have had domestic altars, and Christian sanctuaries and religious meetings which they have cherished and enjoyed. And the want of these is a painful affliction to them in their present condition. A large portion of these men are suffering in hospittals from disease and from All of them are liable to the terrible. wounds casualties of the battle-field, or the more in-